

REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCILANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR THE
YEAR 1940

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

- (a) A. B. Follows, M.D., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health. Part time.

Assistant M.O.H.)
Assistant School M.O.) Under the directions of,
Tuberculosis Officer.) and paid by, the County
Inspector of Midwives) Council.
Health Visitors and Nurses.)

DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS.

Dr. E. Protheroe Smith, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., Redditch. Part time.

Dr. E. P. Dawes, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., (Edin.),) Feckenham " "
L.R.S.P.S., (Glas.))

Dr. W. T. Mitchell, M.B., Ch.B. (Glas. 1922)) Beoley " "
Ipsley
Upper Ipsley

PUBLIC VACCINATORS.

Dr. E. Protheroe Smith, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S. Redditch.

Dr. E. P. Dawes, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., (Edin.)) Feckenham.
L.R.S.P.S., (Glas.))

Dr. W. T. Mitchell, M.B., Ch.B., (Glas. 1922)) Beoley
Ipsley
Upper Ipsley

- (b) G. H. Champion, Cert. "S.I.B."
Senior Sanitary Inspector.
Meat and Food Inspector.
Inspector under the Shops Acts.

T. Hope, Cert. "S.I.B."
Additional Sanitary Inspector. (On active service)

R. Hill, Cert. "S.I.B."
Additional Sanitary Inspector. (Temporary)
Meat and Food Inspector.

Miss A. Lilley - Clerk.

Mrs. W. Shaw - Clerk. (Temporary)

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health
and Housing Committee.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my seventh Annual Report on the Health of the Redditch Urban District.

1940, the first complete year of war has not adversely affected the health of the population; indeed, it is evident from some of the figures that an improvement in health may have been accomplished.

The low diphtheria figure of 11 cases for the year, and no deaths, is the lowest figure I can remember for this disease in any one year. It is just possible that the diphtheria immunisation scheme, which has been in operation continuously since 1933, is just beginning to show results but on this point I will be cautious as it is still premature to arrive at conclusions.

The most noticeable affect of the war on this town is the rapid influx of population and a combined study of the number of inhabited houses and of the employment figures (page 2) will give some idea of the acute housing shortage now existing. The number of houses is actually less than that of the previous year as a result of war damage.

Redditch is classified as a reception area, although in February strong representations were made by the Redditch Council against this classification as three-quarters of the town is densely populated and highly industrial.

In June, 110 school-children from Felixstowe were evacuated to Redditch under the Government programme. This coincided with the demand for more factory workers in the district. Both factors have made the housing position more acute, and a rise in the overcrowding figures has therefore become unavoidable.

When air raids started at the end of the summer, rest centres were established for the evacuees from Birmingham. The personal health and sanitary requirements of these people were the concern of the local sanitary authority.

Mr. R. Hill was engaged as temporary Additional Sanitary Inspector in May, 1940.

My thanks are due to the Officials and Staff for their continued co-operation.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Handwritten: H. J. Taylor

Area	12,059 acres.
Population, Census 1931.	19,281
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population, 1940.	23,960
<div> <div>These figures apply to areas of differing size.</div> <div>X</div> </div>	
Number of Inhabited Houses, 1939.	7,236
1940.	7,224 X
Rateable Value (1st October 1940)	£127,981
Sum represented by Penny Rate ..	£504

I am grateful to the Manager of the Labour Exchange, (Mr. F. J. Taylor) for the following figures:-

Insured Population 1940

MEN	(age) 21-64	7,768	
	18-20	502	
BOYS	16-17	477	
	14-15	<u>510</u>	9,257
WOMEN	21-59	4,229	
	18-20	762	
GIRLS	16-17	591	
	14-15	<u>529</u>	6,111
TOTAL:			<u><u>15,368</u></u>

(Approximately 500 from other)
(Labour Exchanges)

Handwritten notes:
Total 15,368
500 from other
15,368

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	Total	M	F	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population 1940	1939	Eng. & Wales 1940
Legit.	378	214	164			
Illegit.	9	5	4	16.15	16.12	14.6

STILL BIRTHS

	Total	M	F	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births 1940	1939	
Legit.	14	6	8			
Illegit.	-	-	-	34.91	54.12	

DEATHS

	Total	M	F	Death Rate per 1,000 Population 1940	1939	Eng. & Wales 1940
	308	162	146	13.11	12.06	14.3

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

	Deaths 1940	Rate per 1,000 Total Births 1940	1939	Eng. & Wales 1940
Puerperal Sepsis	3	7.48	2.57	0.52)
Other Maternal Causes	-	-	-	1.64)
Total	3	7.48	2.57	2.16)

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	Total	M	F	Infant Mort. Rate per 1,000 live births.	1940	1939	Eng. & Wales 1940
Legit.	26)	15	11	69.77		73.56	55.0
Illegit.	1)	1	-				
				M.	F.		Rate 1940.
Legit. Infants per 1,000 legit. live births				15	11		68.78
Illegit. Infants per 1,000 illégit. live births				1	-		111.11

DEATHS from:-

	Total	Mortality Rate per 1,000 population 1940	1939	Eng. & Wales 1940
Measles	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.02
Whooping Cough	Nil	Nil	0.08	0.02
Enteric Fever	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.00
Small Pox	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	Nil	Nil	0.04	0.00
Diphtheria	Nil	Nil	0.09	0.06
Appendicitis	1	0.04	0.08	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	Nil	Nil	0.08	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	0.08	Nil	-
Influenza	4	0.16	0.39	0.32
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	6	0.25	0.39	-
Other Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	0.13	-
Cancer	39	1.62	1.56	-
Heart Disease	99	4.13	3.94	-
Pneumonia (all forms)	18	0.75	0.39	-
Bronchitis	20	0.83	0.13	-
Violence & Suicide	15	0.62	0.56	-
Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	17	0.70	0.78	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2	0.08	Nil	4.6

Per 1,000 live births

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratory facilities are the same as those given in my previous report.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The ambulance for non-infectious, accident and maternity cases is now under the control of the Urban District Council, the vehicle being kept at the Fire Station.

The same inadequacies in this service mentioned in my previous report still apply.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME

There are no changes to report in the District Nursing Associations.

(d) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Clinic	Situated	Accommodation	By whom provided	Times of holding
Redditch Child Welfare Centre	Old Vicarage B'grove Road	4 Rooms	County Council & voluntarily	Monday 2 p.m. Thursday 2 p.m.
<u>School Clinic</u>				Tuesday 10 a.m.
<u>Dental Clinic</u>	do.	3 Rooms	County Council	Wed. and Fri. 10 a.m.
Orthopaedic Clinic				Monday 10 a.m.
Diphtheria Prevention Clinic	do.	2 Rooms	R.U.D.C. & County Council	2nd and 4th Tuesdays 10 a.m.
Ante Natal Clinic	do.	2 Rooms	County Council	2nd and 4th Thursdays 10 a.m.
Astwood Bank Child Welfare Centre	Church Hall Astwood Bank.	One large room	County Council & voluntarily	2nd and 4th Mondays 2 p.m.
Tuberculosis	The Dispensary Elm Road.	Waiting Room and Consulting Room.	County Council	Friday 2 p.m.

(c) HOSPITALS

Hospital	Name	Situated	By whom provided
Tuberculosis	W.C.C. and Bromsgrove Droitwich and Redditch Joint Hospital	Knightwick Bromsgrove and Hayley Green.	Under joint control
Infectious Diseases	Bromsgrove, Droitwich and Redditch Joint Hospital.	Bromsgrove	ditto.
Smallpox	W.C.C.	Worcester	W.C.C.
Maternity	Mary Stevens Lucy Baldwin	Stourbridge Stourport	W.C.C. W.C.C.
Children	Children's Hospital	Birmingham	By arrangement with County Council
Other General	Smallwood Hospital, 35 beds & 2 cots	Redditch	Voluntarily, not Rate-aided
Tonsils and Adenoids	Smallwood Hospital	Redditch	By arrangement with County Council
Venereal Disease	General Hospital Royal Infirmary	Birmingham Worcester	By arrangement with County Council
Puerperal Pyrexia	General Hospital Royal Infirmary	Birmingham Worcester	By arrangement with County Council
Ear, Nose and Throat	Birmingham	Birmingham	By arrangement with County Council
Convalescent Home	"Holmwood" 20 beds (used chiefly for cases from outside the area.	Redditch	Royal Antedulivian Order of Buffaloes

4,095 patients received treatment at the Smallwood Hospital during the year and 818 at Birmingham and other Hospitals and Convalescent Homes, a total of 4,913. The number of cases dealt with at the Smallwood Hospital continues to increase. No structural alterations were made to the hospital buildings during the year and the bed accommodation (35 beds) remains the same.

Structural alterations are still in progress at the Joint Isolation Hospital which serves five county districts.

An acute shortage of institutional accommodation for infectious diseases has again been felt during 1940 and additional expense has been incurred by the Redditch Urban District owing to the necessity of transferring cases to other hospitals.

2. MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES

The Council is not a Local Supervising Authority but there were two Registered Nursing Homes in the area during 1940.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. (i) WATER - (ARTESIAN WELL WATER)

The following are particulars of the mains laid in the Redditch U.D.C. area during 1940:-

E.M.193 - Red Lane, Redditch - 1,540 yds 8", etc.

E.M.197 - Prospect Road " - 74 " 5"

E.M.198 - Grange Road " - 105 " 3"

E.M.199 - Greenlands Farm
Estate, Redditch - 41 " 3"

Monthly reports have been received from the Manager of the East Worcestershire Waterworks giving the analysis, chemical and bacteriological, of the mains water supplied to the district. This water has on every occasion been good in quality and fit for drinking.

In June it was resolved to postpone for the time being the extension of the Feckenham water supply to Berrow Hill, already approved by the Ministry of Health.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Work on the new sewerage works has proceeded slowly on account of the difficulties of obtaining labour and materials. Everything possible is being done to make the old sewerage works more serviceable and a certain amount of pollution with the River Arrow is unavoidable.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS

In May a complaint was made by the Board of Conservators, Severn Fishery District, on the subject of pollution of the River Arrow and suggesting that steps should be taken to make the Council's existing sewerage plant more effective.

In October a complaint was made by the Worcestershire County Council relative to pollution of the stream in Windsor Road, a tributary of the Arrow.

Both complaints were dealt with by the Council.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Number of pail closets converted into water closets	Nil
Number of trough closets converted into water closets	Nil
Analysis of sanitary accommodation at the end of 1940:-	
Water Closets	5298
Automatically flushed W.C.'s.	357
Waste water closets	16
Slop closets	97
Pail closets	480
Earth closets	17

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING

There have been no important extensions or improvements in the arrangements for Public Cleansing during the year.

Ninety-three new galvanised dustbins were provided during the year.

House refuse is collected fortnightly and disposed of by "controlled" tipping.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Houses inspected	624
Inspections under Housing Regulations	347
Re-inspections	387
Inspections re drainage and conversions	27
Visits to verminous premises	41
" re infectious diseases	253
Factories and bakehouses inspected	23
Dairies and Cowsheds	114
Inspections of shops, stalls, etc.	203
Miscellaneous inspections	401
Inspections re moveable dwellings	82
Statutory Notices served	3
" " complied with	3
Intimation Notices Served	123
" " complied with	113

(iv) IMPROVEMENTS

Houses generally repaired	101
Houses reconstructed	6
Houses provided with proper drainage	34
Pailclosets converted to water closets	Nil
Trough closets " " " "	Nil
Ashpits abolished	26
Galvanised ashbins provided	93
New sculleries or wash-houses provided	4
Water laid on to sculleries or wash-houses	4
New sinks provided	6
Miscellaneous improvements	13

(v) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

One council house was found to be infested with bed bugs. Liquid insecticide is used for disinfestation and "Zaldecide" is found to be the most effective. The premises are examined 10 - 14 days after treatment.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

In May the Ministry of Health agreed to the provision by the Redditch Council of 80 houses to meet the general need for houses in the district.

It was resolved thereupon to erect 60 houses in Batchley Road and 20 in Ash Tree Road by the Dyke Hessolite method of unit construction and in June authorisation was obtained for the erection of a further 100 houses. These houses, when complete, will only touch the fringe of the housing problem in Redditch.

The Council is aware of this housing shortage but the war has, as in other localities, placed the local authorities in an embarrassing position.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	624
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	624
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ..	347
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	347
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..	85
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..	126

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	101
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

- (a) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices:- | |
| (a) By Owners | Nil |
| (b) By local authority in default of Owners | Nil |
- (b) PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS
- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 123 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices:- | |
| (a) By Owners | 113 |
| (b) By local authority in default of owners | Nil |
- (c) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 and 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.
- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.. | Nil |
- (d) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936
- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | Nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. | Nil |

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV. OVERCROWDING

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| (a) | (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | 59 |
| | (ii) Number of families dwelling therein | 59 |
| | (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein | 414 |
| (b) | Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | 12 |
| (c) | (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | Nil |
| | (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases | Nil |
| (d) | Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | Nil |

FACTORIES

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
FACTORIES, with mechanical power	29	Nil	Nil
FACTORIES, without mechanical power	43	Nil	Nil
xOTHER PREMISES, under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil
xElectrical Stations should be reckoned as factories.			
TOTAL:	72	Nil	Nil

2. DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	9	9	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .. .	1	1	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) insufficient)	2	2	-	Nil
Unsuitable or defective..	3	3	-	Nil
not separate for sexes	2	2	-	Nil
Other offences	-	-	-	Nil
TOTAL:	17	17	Nil	Nil

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

1. *Phragmites australis* (Cav.) Trin. ex Steud.

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SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. SCARLET FEVER

88 cases (47 males and 41 females) were notified compared with 67 in the previous year. 64 were removed to hospital and 24 were isolated at home. The disease was, on the whole, mild in type and 4 "return" cases were reported.

2. DIPHTHERIA

11 cases (6 males and 5 females) were notified compared with 46 in the previous year. There were no deaths. All the cases were removed to hospital, and none had been immunised.

IMMUNISATION

150 children were immunised in 1940, (of these 56 were under school age) compared with 298 in 1939. The total of immunised children in Redditch now totals 2,142 (i.e. December 31st 1940).

The following tables show the numbers treated at the various schools in 1940:-

School	M	F	Total
Bridge Street Girls' School	-	9	9
Bridge Street Boys' School	1	-	1
Bridge Street Infants' School	6	4	10
St. Stephen's Girls' School	-	5	5
St. Stephen's Boys' School	2	-	2
St. Stephen's Infants' School	13	10	23
St. George's Mixed School	1	2	3
Mt. Carmel R. C. School	4	4	8
Ipsley Street Infants	4	2	6
County High School, Girls	-	2	2
County High School, Boys	-	-	-
Headless Cross School	1	5	6
Headless Cross Infants	4	2	6
Crabbs Cross School	1	2	3
Crabbs Cross Infants	3	3	6
Astwood Bank School	-	-	-
Feckenham School	-	-	-
Under School Age	31	25	56
Out-lying	3	1	4
TOTALS:	74	76	150

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING 1940.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	88	64	-
Diphtheria	11	11	-
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	12	6	-
Pneumonia	18	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-
Erysipelas	5	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	1	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	7	7	2
Measles	130	-	-
Whooping Cough	25	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1940

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp.		Respiratory		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	3	3	1	2	-	1	-	-
25	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
35	-	4	1	1	1	1	-	-
45	2	2	-	1	4	-	-	-
55	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:	3	9	2	5	6	2	-	1

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

A. B. FOLLOWS,

Medical Officer of health.